

## **WCBS-TV Quarterly Issues/Program Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021**

Attached are the listings of broadcast segments and stories that reflect Channel 2's significant programming treatment of ascertained community issues during the preceding three-month period.

Time period of day, day of week, source and format descriptions follow the first appearance of the broadcast name. Date references refer to broadcast days. All times given are approximate.

### **Programs**

CBS 2 News This Morning, CBS 2 News at Noon, CBS 2 News at 5:00, CBS 2 News at 6:00, CBS 2 News at 11:00, CBS 2 News Saturday, CBS 2 News Sunday - Regularly scheduled news broadcasts focusing on current issues and events.

CBSN New York, 24/7 direct-to-consumer services that stream anchored news coverage and live breaking news events.

60 Minutes - Regularly scheduled one-hour weekly broadcast featuring in-depth interviews and reports of various lengths and topics. Sunday, 7 - 8 p.m.

Face the Nation - Regularly scheduled half hour news broadcast featuring reports and interviews with government leaders, politicians, and international figures in the news. Sunday, 10:30 – 11 a.m.

48 Hours – Regularly scheduled news broadcast. Saturday, 10 - 11 p.m.

“Health Watch” – features of varying lengths focusing on health related issues, the latest in medical research and treatments, and other health related topics.

“Money Watch” – features of varying lengths focusing on the latest in the economy along with tips and ways to save money.

Public Service Announcements- WCBS-TV continues its tradition of airing and sponsoring PSAs. PSAs in rotation stem from various organizations that include topics such as, Breast Cancer Awareness and Bike MS.

**Health:** Topics in this category include mainly COVID-19 vaccinations, the omicron variant.

**CBS 2 NEWS AT 5:00 PM** 10/13 CBS2's Dick Brennan tells us that a federal judge has temporarily allowed health care workers in New York to skip mandatory COVID-19 vaccines if they apply for religious exemptions. He granted preliminary injunction. The healthcare workers protesting the vaccine mandate objected to being forced to take vaccines that used fetal cell lines from procured abortions. A New York State health official confirmed in an affidavit that fetal cell lines were used in the testing and production of current COVID-19 vaccines. 10/27 Steve Overmyer tells us that giving yourself a good scare comes with health benefits. It's not just the surge of energy, but also a relaxation response, which triggers euphoria. Short scare bursts can have positive impacts, like strengthening the immune system. When we're scared, we also release the hormone oxytocin, which can help us feel closer to those around us. 12/8 CBS2's Aundrea Cline-Thomas reports that Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont has announced a new program to support mental health for college students. The governor announced a \$2.3 million grant for colleges and universities to provide additional resources. Lamont says the effects of long haul COVID can have a lasting impact on mental health. 12/15 CBS2's Dave Carlin tells us that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the two states with the highest spread of the Omicron COVID-19 variant are New York and New Jersey. Fast-paced New York City is seeing a faster spread of the new Omicron variant, compared to the vast majority of the country, according to just released CDC findings. The CDC says the Omicron variant is detected in 3% of samples on average nationwide, but for New York and New Jersey, the Omicron rate is 13% for both, about four times the national average. **CBS 2 NEWS AT 11:00 PM** 10/27 Dick Brennan tells us that a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel endorsed Pfizer's vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11. That means shots could be available in a matter of weeks. The advisory panel gave a vote of confidence to the Pfizer vaccine, which would be two low doses, three weeks apart. Of 18 voting members, 17 voted yes and one abstained. The move comes amid a debate around the country by parents over whether kids should be vaccinated. 12/2 CBS2's Cory James reports that five cases of the COVID-19 Omicron variant have been confirmed in New York. Four were reported in New York City and one in Suffolk County. Officials say two of the cases are in Queens and one is in Brooklyn. The exact location of the fourth case in New York City is unknown at this time. The case in Suffolk County is a 67-year-old woman who tested positive on November 30<sup>th</sup>, five days after returning from a trip to South Africa. Officials say she had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine statuses of the other four individuals are unknown at this time.

**Government and Politics:** Topics in this category include: Carriage horses in Central Park and President Biden's infrastructure plan.

**CBS 2 NEWS AT 5:00 PM** CBS2's Dick Brennan reports that President Joe Biden visited New Jersey to push infrastructure plan. The president was in Kearny, as construction of a railroad bridge aimed to ease congestion kicked off. AMTRAK and NJ Transit riders have all had to deal with the Portal Bridge getting stuck in the open position and delaying commuters. The Portal Bridge over the Hackensack River was built 110 years ago, and so many commuters say they've grown old waiting for it to operate properly. A new Portal Bridge will be built, as part of the Gateway Project, a huge infrastructure plan designed to ease the never-ending congestion along the Northeast Corridor. The new bridge will be built next to the existing structure and some trains could begin running across the new span by November 2025. 11/19 CBS2's Marcia Kramer tells us that Mayor Bill de Blasio is once again trying to get rid of carriage horses in Central Park. This time, de Blasio is developing eleventh hour legislation to replace the popular tourist attraction with electric show cars. When de Blasio ran for mayor in 2013, he vowed to get rid of the carriage horses "on day one." As he contemplates running for governor, he's trying to make good on that old campaign promise.

**Education:** Topics in this category include: COVID cases and allegations of sexual abuse at a high school.

**CBS 2 NEWS AT 6:00 PM** 11/23 Jennifer McLogan tells us that New York Attorney General Letitia James is launching an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse at a Long Island high school. A lawyer, a police officer, and a PhD candidate are the latest among multiple former students from Babylon Junior-Senior High saying they were victims of sexual misconduct at the hands of their teachers and coaches. After an avalanche of complaints and a six-hour board meeting, Babylon's superintendent placed five employees on paid leave and a sixth resigned. A seventh teacher, a coach, is no longer with the district. 12/1 CBS2's Marcia Kramer tells us that the NYC School Chancellor Meisha Porter announced she is stepping down, clearing the decks for Mayor-elect Eric Adams to make good on his promise to revamp the Department of Education and change learning priorities for the nearly 1 million students in city public schools. David Banks, the founder of the all-boys Eagle Academy, a hybrid of public and charter school models, is reportedly the leading contender to be the next school's chancellor. **CBS 2 NEWS SATURDAY AT 11:00 PM** 12/31 CBS2's Cory James reports that with COVID cases spiking, the return to school after winter break will be a remote learning experience for thousands of students in New Jersey. Nearly a dozen Hudson County school districts are going remote for one week from January 3-7.

**Consumer:** Topics in this category include: consumer prices, dry shampoo, and ground turkey

**CBS 2 NEWS AT 12:00 PM:** 12/20 Mary Calvi reports that some popular dry shampoo and conditioner products are being recalled. Proctor and Gamble issued a voluntary recall for more than 30 of its aerosol spray products. The recall is due to concerns over levels of the chemical benzene, which is known to cause cancer. Products from the brands Pantene, Aussie, Herbal Essence and Waterless are include in the recall. The company says it is pulling the product out of an abundance of caution. **CBS 2 NEWS AT 5:00PM:** 10/14 CBS2's Kristine Johnson reports that Butterball is recalling some of its ground turkey. The company says small pieces of hard blue plastic may have ended up in some of the products. The recall affects more than 14,000 pounds of ground turkey sold in BJ's and Kroger grocery stores. It includes 2.5 pound trays of Farm-to-Family Ground Turkey with a sell-by date of October 18<sup>th</sup> and 3-pound trays of Kroger Ground Turkey with a sell-by date of October 17<sup>th</sup>. 11/16 CBS2's Kristine Johnson tells us that Kraft Heinz is recalling some Kool-Aid tropical punch powdered beverages because they may contain tiny pieces of metal and glass. The recall involves certain powdered drinks sold in 19-ounce, 82-ounce, and "on-the-go sticks" and products with a "Best When Used By" date between June 13, 2023 and October 3, 2023. 12/3 CBS2's Maurice DuBois tells us that Honda is recalling nearly 725,000 SUV's and pickup trucks because the hoods can open while the vehicles are moving. The recall covers certain 2019 Passports, 2016 through 2019 Pilots and 2017 through 2020 Ridgeline pickups. 12/10 Kevin Rincon reports that consumer prices were up in November almost 7% from a year ago. The last time prices jumped by that much was 1982, and as of now, there's no sign things will get better any time soon.

**Crime:** Topics in this category include: hate crimes and subway attacks.

**CBS 2 NEWS AT 12:00 PM** 12/17 CBS2's Chris Wragge tells us that police arrested a man they say has been spray painting swastikas across Lower Manhattan. James Ryan was taken into custody on charges of criminal mischief as a hate crime and aggravated harassment. Surveillance video showed a man drawing a swastika on a pillar at City Hall. Investigators said the same man spray painted a swastika on the Charging Bull as well. **CBS 2 NEWS AT 5:00 PM** 10/18 CBS2's Marcia Kramer tells us that the crime on city subways increased dramatically last month, driven by assaults and thefts targeting straphangers. NYPD Inspector Raymond Porteous told the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board about a 58.6% increase in major crimes last month that included an increase of more than 88% in grand larceny and a 50%

increase in felony assaults. Another startling statistic—hate crimes against Asians on the subway have climbed 238% this year. All of this comes as the MTA has seen solid ridership increases. 10/21 CBS2's Maurice DuBois tells us that a homeless man has been indicted on hate crime charges. Barry Morris, 55, is accused of attacking an 81-year-old Asian man as he walked along Lexington Avenue near 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in August. Investigators say Morris knocked the man to the ground while shouting anti-Asian slurs. He was arrested at the scene. The victim of the attack was treated at the hospital for a fractured hip and bruises. 10/28 CBS2's Aundrea Cline-Thomas reports that a New Jersey man was killed shortly after arriving home by a gunman who authorities said followed him for 30 miles from Pennsylvania. Authorities say at around 3:30am Tuesday morning, Sree Ranga Aravapalli, 54, was followed from a casino outside Pennsylvania to his home in Plainsboro, New Jersey, where he was shot and killed in an attempted robbery. Police arrested Jekai Reid-John, 27, of Norristown, Pennsylvania and charged him with first-degree murder. 11/12 CBS2's Aundrea Cline-Thomas tells us that good Samaritans stepped in to help Friday after a woman was pushed onto the subway tracks in Times Square during an attempted robbery. The train operator was able to stop the train just as they were entering the station, allowing good Samaritans to jump into action. According to authorities, around 1:45pm on the northbound R train platform, a man allegedly tried to grab the victim's purse and then pushed her onto the tracks. Police say good Samaritans not only helped the victim, but others grabbed the suspect until officers arrived. The suspect is a man in his 40s who is described as being homeless, renewing the MTA's calls for more help in the subways. **CBS 2 NEWS AT 11:00 PM** 12/7 CBS2's Dick Brenna reports that new data from the NYPD has revealed a disturbing trend. Hate crimes have skyrocketed across the city. Overall, there have been 503 hate and bias crimes to date, up from 252 in 2020. That's a 100% increase. Police say it has been driven by crimes against the Asian community, where there's been a 361% increase. That is 129 incidents this year versus 28 last year. Anti-Semitic crimes are up to 183 in 2021, from 121 in 2020, and there were 85 crimes this year over sexual orientation, up from 29 last year.